

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) Method for reinforcing an article comprising attaching to at least one surface of said article a tape, film or yarn of a drawn thermoplastic polymer, wherein said tape, film or yarn is attached to said article by means of a heat treatment and/or by applying pressure, and wherein
i) said article has been shaped before applying the tape, film or yarn; or
ii) said tape, film or yarn has been shaped simultaneously with or before forming the reinforced article.

18. (previously presented) Method according to claim 17, wherein said article comprises a solid thermosetting or thermoplastic material.

19. (previously presented) Method according to claim 17, wherein said article comprises a thermoplastic material of essentially the same composition as said tape, film or yarn, which method optionally further comprises recycling the reinforced article.

20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) Method according to claim 17, wherein said tape, film or yarn is in the form of a woven or non-woven cloth.

22. (currently amended) Method according to claim 17, wherein said tape, film or yarn comprises a polyester and/or a polyolefin, preferably a polyethylene, a polypropylene or a combination thereof.

23. (previously presented) Method according to claim 17, wherein the tape, film or yarn is a drawn thermoplastic polymer of the AB or ABA type substantially consisting of a central layer (B) of a first thermoplastic polymer and one or two other layers (A) of a second thermoplastic polymer, the DSC melting point of the material of the said other layers (A) being lower than the DSC melting point of the material of the said central layer (B).

24. (currently amended) Method according to claim 17, wherein said tape, film or yarn is a monoaxially drawn thermoplastic polymer, having a stretch ratio of more than 12 and having an E-modulus of at least 5 GPa, preferably of at least 10 GPa.

25. (previously presented) Method according to claim 23, wherein said tape, film or yarn substantially consists of a central layer (B) of a polyolefin selected from polyethylene and polypropylene, and one or two other layers (A) of a polyolefin from the same class as the material of the central layer B, the DSC melting point of the material of the said other layers (A) being lower than the DSC melting point of the material of the said central layer (B), wherein the central layer (B) is between 50 and 99 wt.% of the material and the other layers (A) between 1 and 50 wt.%.

26. (currently amended) Method according to claim 17, comprising the steps of forming the tape, film or yarn in to a shaped material to act as a reinforcing material and applying a covering layer, preferably a surface finish, to at least part of the shaped material.

27. (previously presented) Method according to claim 26, wherein upon at least part of the shaped material a layer of foam is applied, before applying the covering layer upon at least part of the foam.

28. (currently amended) Method according to claim 26 27, wherein the covering layer and/or the foam are selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic olefins, preferably from the group of polyethylenes, polypropylenes and copolymers of polyethylenes and polypropylenes.

29. (previously presented) Reinforced article obtainable by a method according to claim 17.

30. (previously presented) Article, of which at least one surface is provided with a tape, film or yarn of a drawn thermoplastic polymer as defined in claim 17.

31. (previously presented) Article according to claim 29, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of articles for the automotive/bodywork industry (e.g. car doors, mud guards, bumpers, engine covers, dash boards, door styles, clutch handles, clutch covers, safety belt holders), articles for the building/construction industry (e.g. ladders, scaffolds, wall-panels, ceiling panels, laths, cable-troughs, skirting-boards, beams, girders, tubes, pipes), articles for fluid transportation (e.g. tubes or pipes for the water industry, gas industry, oil industry, including off-shore industry), articles for marine yacht building, articles for ballistic purposes (e.g. protective panels, bomb explosion shells, protective shields, parts for vehicles), articles for medical/para-medical purposes (e.g. orthetic articles, cables, prostheses, tables for surgery, parts for wheel-chairs) and house-hold articles.

32. (cancelled)

33. (previously presented) Method according to claim 18, wherein said article comprises a thermoplastic material of essentially the same composition as said tape, film or yarn, which method optionally further comprises recycling the reinforced article.

34-35. (cancelled)

36. (previously presented) Method according to claim 18, wherein said tape, film or yarn is in the form of a woven or non-woven cloth.

37. (new) Method according to claim 22, wherein said tape, film or yarn comprises a polyethylene, a polypropylene or a combination thereof.

38. (new) Method according to claim 24, wherein said tape, film or yarn has an E-modulus of at least 10 GPa.

39. (new) Method according to claim 26, wherein said covering layer is a surface finish.

40. (new) Method according to claim 28, wherein said thermoplastic olefins are selected from the group consisting of polyethylenes, polypropylenes, and copolymers of polyethylenes and polypropylenes.